

Meeting Minutes

Poultney Board of Selectmen

Monday, October 23, 2017 – 6:30 PM

Poultney Town Hall

Jeff King called the meeting to order. Selectmen present included: Jeff King, Tom Coloutti, Frank Fressie, Terry Williams and George Miller. Others present included Paul A. Donaldson, Town Manager, Neisja Crawford, Secretary / Bookkeeper, Paul Hancock, Linda Knowlton, Tim Loomis and members of slate industry and towns people (see sign in sheet)

Adoption of the Agenda: Tom Coloutti made a motion to adopt the agenda. George Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried

Approval of Minutes: Tom Coloutti made a motion to approve the minutes of 9/11/17. Terry Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried

Public Comments and Concerns:

- Paul Hancock, Slate Quarry Park presentation
 - discussed park design
 - progress report
 - recently paid off promissory note and now own the park site at 76 Main Street
 - continuing to raise money and apply for grant(s)
 - Terry Williams: Question regarding entrances, does the association have permission to enter the park from the neighbor's property?
 - Paul Hancock: Yes, verbal permission, but not in writing.
 - Jeff King: Who is liable in the future for park maintenance?
 - Paul Hancock: We hope the Town will take over.
 - Jeff King: We need to see maintenance estimates.
 - Jeff King: Have you approached the Village Board?
 - Paul Hancock: Not yet.
 - Paul Donaldson: I'll put on the Village agenda.

- Members of the Slate Industry, presented unified written recommendations to the Select Board, regarding amendments to the Bylaws, re: Section 417: Slate Mining, Section 418: Slate Processing, Section 1424: Site Development.

 - The document of recommendations was not read or discussed, it was presented to the Board by Craig Markcrow
 - Charlie Brown: "it is very important to keep Natural Resources at the top of the chain", "the 200 ft set back, looks like it was enacted back in 2003", was this a legal change?
 - Jeff King: I am going to read over everything.
 - Paul Donaldson: My office is receiving calls every day, regarding a "bad actor", which is drawing much attention to the issue.
- Linda Knowlton and Harry drum request for gazebo on East Poultney Green

 - to enhance arts and music festivities
 - talked with local supplier, can have low maintenance, prefab gazebo with extras (i.e., electric) installed for about \$20,000
 - Jeff King: What about the church?
 - Linda Knowlton: Todd Eaton said he thinks it's a great idea.
 - Terry Williams: Would this have to go on the ballot for a vote?
 - Jeff King: Yes.
 - Frank Fressie: Have you canvassed the neighbors? This may be too noisy.
 - Harry Drum: We've talked to most residents. We're willing to go door to door. What do we need to do next?
 - Deb McMurry: Have you tried any other funding?
 - Jeff King: Should we pursue it?
 - Selectmen: Yes.
 - Jeff King: In order to be put on the March 1, 2018 ballot, I will have to defend it.
 - Terry Williams: Start a petition.
 - Jeff King: Check with all the property owners.
 - Frank Fressie: Create an organization.
 - Jeff King: You need to have everything ready to be put on the ballot by January 1, 2018.
 - Tom Coloutti: Come to the first December meeting
- Tim Loomis, offer to purchase Town and Village owned property on Granville Street

 - Tim Loomis gave Paul Donaldson a letter asking to purchase the property which the Town and Village together took over from a tax sale
 - Terry Williams: What do you plan to do with it?
 - Tim Loomis: I don't know.
 - Terry Williams: What is your offer?
 - Tim Loomis: Don't have one yet.
 - Paul Donaldson: I will have to figure out a cost.
 - Frank Fressie: Can we sell without going to bid?

-Paul Donaldson: He'll have to make an offer, enter a contract and I'll have to notice it.
-Jeff King: You'll have to go to the Village meeting (3rd Thursday, November 16, 2017).

- Kristin Silverman, York Street Extension
 - Hilltop Slate, owned by Daniel J. Boone, is blasting and operating quarry, seven days a week, well within 200 ft set back.
 - Our well is damaged, have gone 7 weeks with no water, have foundation damage and radon levels are 17.9
 - witnessed a blast that shot rocks into the road and yard (they did not stop traffic), watched as quarry workers picked up rocks out of road
 - reported to Town Office, Bill Burke Act 250, and MSHA
 - MSHA showed up today and shut them down.
 - Frank Fressie: The Town can also file a complaint with MSHA
 - Paul Donaldson: Filed complaint Friday.
 - Frank Fressie: Should we shut the road down?
 - George Miller: Has anyone else been affected?
 - Kristin Silverman: Renters are moving.
 - Ron Kelley: The blast may have weakened the base of the road.
 - Paul Donaldson: Talked with Town attorney, there is a state statute not to damage infrastructure.

Road Report:

Ron Kelley reported the following:

- The shed is filled with 2970 yards of sand, cost approximately \$31,000
- Completed Finel Hollow Road, met with Linda Blassch with Better Roads Grant, the Town should receive \$20,000.
- Will apply for grant aid from the state, for repair of hydrogenic connected roads, possibly eligible for \$14,000 to help stone line ditches and divert culverts along brook / river
- Grading, getting rid of potholes
- Josh Carvahol looked at the wooden bridge on Ames Hollow Rd., discussed taking the bridge out and putting in a ford crossing (at an estimated cost of \$20,000).
 - Brian Sanderson said the road is really a class III, can down grade or get rid of it
 - Tom Coloutti: Does the state own both side of the road?
 - Paul Donaldson: No.
- Frank Fressie made a motion to start proceedings to discontinue Highway 29, Ames Hollow Road. Tom Coloutti seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Town Managers Report:

Paul Donaldson reported the following:

- Tax Sales
 - The attorney is sending out last letter, then will proceed to tax sale.
- Project Work Safe (Due date December 20, 2017)
 - Sent a copy of the report to Ron and Aaron.
 - There were no major violations.
- Discussion re: law enforcement
 - Tables the discussion until November 13, 2017

Transact Any Other Lawful Business:

- Tom Coloutti: received a telephone call Friday night (lasted about 30 mins)
 - complaint about Lewis Road. Drove out to look at for myself, the road looked fine.
 - Jeff King: Send people that approach you to the Town Manager
- Jeff King: Think about a budget increase, to \$14,000, for the Downtown Revitalization
 - Terry Williams: Have them come and ask.
- Paul Donaldson: The Baptist church received the restoration grant they applied for.
- Paul Donaldson: VLCT hired an attorney for the constable accident claim. Regarding the woman that hit the cruiser, VLCT denied her claim and are suing her for repairs. The Town is named as the Plaintiff.

Health Officer:

Terry Williams nothing to report.

Executive Session:

none

Board Orders:

Terry Williams made a motion to pay board orders. Frank Fressie seconded the motion. Motion carried

Adjournment:

Frank Fressie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Coloutti seconded motion. Motion carried

s/Neisja Crawford, Secretary / Bookkeeper